GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1794
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme for rehabilitation of ex-manual scavengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for their rehabilitation including provision of alternative occupation to the ex-manual scavengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE uIN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (c): A Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was introduced in January, 2007 to rehabilitate all the remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations. During the implementation of the Scheme, all concerned State Governments/Union Territories confirmed disbursement of admissible financial assistance to all identified, eligible and willing 78, 941 manual scavengers and their dependents, by June, 2010. Thereafter, based on the information provided by NGOs, 528 manual scavengers were also provided financial assistance for their rehabilitation under this Scheme.

Employment as manual scavengers is prohibited under the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) in which definition of manual scavenger has been expanded. The Act has come into force with effect from 06.12.2013.

Central Government has revised the SRMS for rehabilitation of all the manual scavengers identified under the provisions of the MS Act, 2013. The main features of the Scheme include one-time cash assistance, training with stipend and concessional loans with subsidy for taking up alternative occupations.